

SPIRITUAL VISION.

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Under this heading I wish to emphasize the reality, even the present reality of the spiritual world, to make a plea for the kingdom and the faculty of faith. Should the sermon taster demand a text, here is one:

"Except ye become as little children ye cannot see the kingdom of God:" Or better still:

"The child is father of the man
And I could wish my days to be
Bound each to each by natural piety."

Spiritual vision is the rebirth in us of the idealism, the faith, the romance of childhood. When we are children we feel a nameless something about us that lends to our experience an abiding charm. We live then in a large and beautiful world. Children are idealists, unconsciously so, or better still, *sub-consciously* so. Their lives are one continual splendor of romance. They are not confined, like us, within the narrow bounds of place and time. Everything to them assumes large proportions. They are the offspring of faith. For surely this is faith: the seeing of life in large dimensions, the living with a sense of vagueness and wonder and grandeur. The children, then, are the heirs of faith, of vision, of romance. They see this world to be bigger than it looks to us. They idealize the dead, dumb, material things about them. They invest their toys with life and personality. Their faith in them is unbounded. There is for them a charm attaching to these playthings that is unspeakable. The little ones talk to them and fancy that they make answer back. The child is also an idealist in his attitude toward time. As the objects he sees slope into the infinite so time to him becomes the eternal. He finds no such reality as time. He knows no past or future. He lives in the everlasting. The days go by unnoticed. He must be told when Sunday comes and as soon forgets it. A day with him is as a thousand years and a thousand years is as a day. He has'nt learned to divide off